

T H E


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Censor

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VEXAT CENSURA COLUMBAS.

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IF it be true, that the exceptionable clause in the late proclamation, was not proposed by Mr. Hutchinson, but by ONE of the council; yet there it stands, and is nevertheless exceptionable, and must reflect dishonour somewhere, even though it were *inadvertently* inserted.

It is not denied, even by Mr. Hutchinson's friends, that the other part of the proclamation was drafted by him: We may consider him then as triumphing over us as SLAVES; or persons who have no privileges; and though he well knew it would be a piece of mockery, to lead us to the throne of grace, with thanksgivings, for the preservation of privileges, which, by his means, in part, we have been deprived of; yet he *thought fit*, with the advice of six out of twenty-eight of his council, (if he by HIS CRAFT, could make it their act) to insert it.

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WE have need of the wisdom of serpents, who are concerned with such rulers; to be considered by them as fools, is irritating; for fools they must think us, if they can imagine that we can complain of loss of liberty in one breath, and with the next solemnly thank God for the preservation of it. What account can be given for such conduct, consistent with common honesty, mankind must judge.

It would give me pain to harbour one thought, that the six members, who it is said voted for the insertion of that impious paragraph, intended thereby to curry favour with the ministry; I cannot indulge such a thought, besides there is no danger that this people will ever receive a council appointed by the KING himself; And certainly it is unlikely, that if the representatives of this people should once adopt such a sentiment of them, that these men should ever again be re-chosen into the council. Mr. Hutchinson may think we are easy, because we have so long waited for a redress of grievances; but our patience is nearly exhausted. It cannot be that we shall bear much longer, to have our money forced from us.—An Englishman should never part with a penny but by his consent, or the consent of his agent, or representative, especially as the money thus forced from us, is to hire a man to TYRANNIZE over us, whom his *Master* calls our Governor. This seems to be Mr. Hutchinson's situation; therefore I cannot but view him as a usurper, and absolutely deny his jurisdiction over this people: and am of opinion, that any act of assembly consented to by him, in his pretended capacity of Governor, is *ipso facto*, null and void, and consequently, not binding upon us. A ruler, independent on the people, is a monster in government; and such a one is Mr. Hutchinson; and such would George the third be, if he should be rendered independent on the people of Great-Britain. A Massachusetts Governor, the King by compact with this people may *nominate* and *appoint*, but not *pay*: For his support, he must stipulate with the people, and until he does, he is no legal Governor; without this, if he undertakes to rule, he is a USURPER.

It is high time then, my countrymen, that this matter was enquired into, if we have no constitutional Governor, it is time we had one. If the pretended Governor, or Lieutenant-Governor, by being independent on us for their support, are rendered incapable of completing acts of government, it is time, I say, that we had a lawful one to preside, or that the pretended Governors were dismissed and PUNISHED as USURPERS, and that the council, according to charter, should take upon themselves the government of this province.

MUCIUS SCÆVOLA.

THE CENSOR.

THERE are certain persons among us, who in the common concerns of life, do not exhibit any extravagant malignity of disposition, but no sooner do they enter the lists of *political* warfare, they strip themselves of all the social virtues, and

and become the noisiest *yelpers* of the whole *pack*. There are some I would candidly suppose are not led from a love of disorder or self-exaltation to become adventurers in this desperate game ; but absurdly imagine themselves to be instruments of such little consequence, as not likely to do much mischief : such persons should remember, that *frogs, lice ; vermine* the most *insignificant* and *despicable* have heretofore proved the most severe plagues to an unhappy kingdom. The towering elm frequently erects its head to the regions of thunder unmolested and uninjured, and bows at last a victim to the destructive proboscis of an insidious *canker-worm*.

THERE are others, may shame mar their cheeks : who for the vain purpose of creating a *temporary importance* to themselves, or from the viler *motive of personal malice and revenge*, take pleasure in producing disorder in the machine of government, and wickedly seek occasion to endanger the shipwreck of the commonwealth. Every system of social regulation is pregnant with the seeds of its dissolution : in free governments a presumption of impunity cherishes the *brawler FACTION*, till it becomes that *destroying fiend* rank, rank *REBELLION*. No government perhaps has suffered such astonishing vicissitudes as our own, from the unbridled ambition, and daring phenzy of aspiring demagogues. That necessary subordination, which constitutes well-ordered government, is extremely disagreeable to certain enterprising spirits ; they ill brook subjection, and exert all the malignant powers they possess, to destroy that necessary distinction, or grasp the balance and the rod into their own polluted hands : such are some of our intolerant brethren. To part with some proportion of our natural rights for the construction of a social state, is a striking proof of human intelligence ; to abet the designs, and join issue with a *Candidus, Leonidas, Mucius Scaevola*, and some other *state-desperadoes*, in their ruinous measures, is as striking a proof of the egregious folly and madness of mankind. Remember my beloved countrymen ! for the sake of yourselves and posterity remember, you have something to lose, but nothing to gain, by uniting in the cry of the *seditions*. *Machiavel* gives an instructive lesson to the PEOPLE, in his precept to kings. “ If you are despotick (ad-
“ dressing himself to the monarch) chastize the first dawning of
“ popular disturbance, let the rod anticipate the offence ; but if your
“ rule be limited, and a privileged people betray a turbulent disposition,
“ encourage a revolt, rather than prevent it, they will then fortunate-
“ ly furnish you with a golden opportunity to abridge them of their
“ liberties, and add another arrow to the quiver of your power.” How despicable is the swagger of a presumptuous demagogue ! Of what estimation all his pretence of *philanthrophy* and *patriotism* ! when the measures he pursues, and so strenuously urges, appear evidently calculated to produce intestine commotions and publick calamity.

THE first Magistrate of this province appears to be formally excluded from his share of government by one and another of our restless malecontents. Madness may claim a privilege to rave with impunity, but the wretch who exceeds the usual enormities in a time of too frequent excess, should not be suffered to claim protection from the multitude of offenders.—*Mucius Scævola* has unhappily for himself uttered such base coin, that the execrable varnish of personal abuse can scarcely make current: He had heretofore plucked up the rankest weeds in the whole field of faction; and has now farther transgressed the bounds of decency, and boldly launched forth on the yet unbeaten track of barefaced rebellion. As this virulent state-quack may possibly suffer more than the severity of criticism I shall be sparing in my remarks. Not content with disturbing the publick tranquillity by publications which have frequently put his ears in jeopardy, not content to assassinate the most sacred and unimpeachable characters, who have through tenderness, neglected to restrain his insolence; not affected by the lenity of that rod he has so repeatedly merited, in his phrenzy he would amputate the hands which might justly correct him.—Whether his Excellency draughted the whole or any part of the late proclamation, or whether the passages which occasion such infinite abuse of the best characters are really exceptionable is not my present purpose to enquire; but admitting them not to be strictly conformable to the general conception, it by no means follows that the parties concerned in the draught are dishonoured thereby.—It is no unwarrantable conjecture to suppose that our brawling dabblers in politicks may as probably err in their apprehensions of the matter, as that Mr. Hutchinson who is certainly as well acquainted with the rights of the people as they can decently pretend to be should at once forfeit an unblemished reputation, and designedly endeavour to abuse the people.—To carry the matter still farther, admitting the draught to be really faulty in the paragraphs adverted to, much is due to private opinion, and the candid will forever make some allowance for misapprehension.—But to admit the vilest suggestion: Let us suppose however contrary to reason and happy experience that the present Commander in Chief had by numerous abuses of his power proclaimed himself to be a common enemy, by an unexampled course of profligacy had evidenced a total disregard to truth or religion—admit that he had designed to impose upon the ignorant and credulous, insult the wise and patriotick, and even affront the Majesty of Heaven in the late proclamation, all these by no means prove him guilty of usurpation, by no means disqualify him for acts of government.